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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Medical Assistance Services

Dennis G. Smith
DIRECTOR

June 29, 2000

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Tim Westmoreland, Director
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Health Care Financing Administration
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Westmoreland:

Virginia submitted an 1115 Waiver application in December 1999 to extend Family Planning Services for women up to two years postpartum. We received several questions regarding the waiver on April 11, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to seek additional guidance and clarification on some of the questions that were raised.

Question 1: Budget neutrality. It is difficult to determine the budgetary impact of the waiver, as we do not have data regarding the use of family planning services by women who no longer are eligible for Medicaid. That is, women are likely to have access to family planning services through a number of health care programs such as Title X, community health centers, health clinics and other sources. We cannot determine the extent to which the extension of Medicaid eligibility for these services may supplant non-Medicaid sources. There is no cost to the Medicaid program if other sources provide these services. Please assist us in the identification of national studies that may enable us to obtain such data.

Question 6: How does the state intend to prevent abortion counseling or referrals, particularly when they occur in the context of an office visit? What assurances can the state provide that the exclusion of these services will not deny women the right to be informed of all possible medical options available to them?

A. Does "the exclusion of these 'services'" mean abortion counseling and referrals?

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- B. The two questions seem contradictory. The first seems to imply the state is responsible for prevention abortion counseling and referral and the second seems to imply the state is responsible for assuring such counseling and referral is available. We hesitate to provide assurance regarding one or the other; we certainly cannot do both. The purpose of the waiver is to provide pre-pregnancy family planning services, which do not include abortion, abortion counseling or referral.

Sincerely,



Dennis G. Smith

DGS/ajc

Cc: Joyce Jordan
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